

loved deeply, and served his community fiercely.

It is my honor to recognize his life and count him among eleven other individuals who represent everything that it means to be a Montanan.

HONORING MRS. LAURA MCKIE
FOR HER ENDLESS SERVICE TO
OUR COMMUNITY

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mrs. Laura McKie, a proud constituent of Woodbridge, Virginia as she celebrates her 90th birthday on March 21, 2026. For years, Mrs. McKie has been a leader of our community, advocating for education and women's rights.

Mrs. McKie has had a distinguished career, earning a degree in cultural anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis followed by a master's degree from Harvard University. After graduating she went on to serve as Director of Education at the Smithsonian's National Museum of National History. In that role, she was responsible for the Insect Zoo, Discovery Room, Marine Ecosystems Exhibit, and the Naturalist Center including a staff of two dozen museum professionals and 300 docents.

During her tenure, Mrs. McKie was also in charge of creating educational materials and guides for exhibitions, as well as several large-format films, and video productions. She served as the museum's accessibility coordinator, managing the implementation of fully accessible audio tours and ensuring that the museum's resources could be enjoyed by all visitors.

After retiring, Mrs. McKie didn't just stop there; she continued her dedication to public service. Most notably, she volunteered to develop and direct the Lucy Burns Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, Virginia, which documents the 91-year history of the prison that housed inmates from the District of Columbia. She curated the exhibitions highlighting the 1917 imprisonment, brutal treatment, and hunger strikes of suffragists like Lucy Burns and Alice Paul. Through her leadership, the museum tells the powerful story of the women of the National Women's Party and preserves the legacy of those who demanded the right to vote.

In March 2020, Mrs. McKie received a special proclamation from the Fairfax County Commission for Women honoring her as a "Valiant Woman of the Vote" for her devoted work in bringing the Lucy Burns Museum to life and contributions to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Laura McKie on her remarkable life of service and leadership, and in wishing her a very happy 90th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF HARRY FLEISHER COLLINS, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and public service of Harry Fleisher Collins, Jr., who passed away on March 1, 2026, at the age of 74.

Mr. Collins is well remembered for his service to the community of Christiansburg, Virginia. He served on the Christiansburg Town Council for four years. His leadership is credited for the development of Christiansburg's Huckleberry Park. Following his passing, the Town of Christiansburg lowered its flags to half-staff to honor Collins' service.

The local Republican Party in Montgomery County believed in Mr. Collins' leadership. Local Republican Party officials, who were impressed by Mr. Collins' strong record in public office and his commitment to electing Republican candidates for local offices, selected Mr. Collins to be Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party.

As the survivor of a double-lung transplant, Mr. Collins devoted significant time to the Lung Transplant Foundation. He served as the CEO, worked tirelessly to support the Foundation's initiatives and advocated for those needing help.

Mr. Collins is survived by his loving wife, Sherri; his sister, Valerie Myers and her husband Steve Myers; his daughter, Kristin Sells and her husband Aaron Sells; his sons, Zach Collins and wife Miranda Collins, Brock Collins and wife Becky Collins, and Ryan Collins and wife Brittney Cockram; and his stepsons, Austin Huff and wife Sydney Huff, and Colin Huff. He was a proud grandfather to 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, all of whom were the light of his life.

I enjoyed working with Mr. Collins and considered him a friend. I join the Christiansburg, Virginia community in mourning the loss of a public servant, community advocate and respected man. Mr. Collins' community work should inspire other local officials in Montgomery County and the greater New River Valley.

HONORING KATHRYN YURKANIN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an exceptional public servant and partner to Congress, Kathryn Yurkanin, Principal Deputy Chief, Legislative Liaison, as she retires after 41 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Kathryn's remarkable career includes 20 years of honorable service in the United States Army. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, she began as a Transportation Officer and later transitioned to serve as an Acquisition Officer, ultimately retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Near the culmination of her military career, she expanded her service into the policy arena as a Congress-

sional Fellow for Congressman Silvestre Reyes. From there, she went on to hold numerous critical leadership roles, including Congressional Budget Liaison Officer, Acting Director of the Acquisition Policy and Oversight Directorate, and Director of Congressional Affairs for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, among many other distinguished assignments. Ms. Yurkanin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Mount Saint Mary's University, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, and a Master of Business Administration from George Mason University. Her academic achievements reflect the same discipline, commitment, and pursuit of excellence that have defined her professional life.

As Principal Deputy Chief, Legislative Liaison for the Department of the Army, Kathryn has provided steady leadership, thoughtful guidance, and seamless coordination for the daily operations of the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison. Across changing administrations, shifting priorities, and complex legislative challenges, she has remained principled, dependable, and unwavering in her commitment to service. In every role she has held, she has embodied integrity, professionalism, and an enduring devotion to the mission of the institution she has served.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Kathryn Yurkanin for her selfless dedication, unyielding leadership, and steadfast commitment to our country. As she concludes her 41 years of honorable service, I extend my deepest gratitude to Kathryn for her sacrifices and contributions to the strength and security of our Nation. I wish her all the best as she embarks on the next chapter of her life, and I know that Ms. Yurkanin will continue to be an inspiration.

HONORING ROBIN JULIANO

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the extraordinary public service of my Policy Director, Robin Juliano, as she completes her latest tour of duty on Capitol Hill.

I know I am joined by both Members and staff, across the House and Senate, in my immense gratitude for this incomparable maestro of the legislative process—who has spent her career mobilizing the powers of this institution to deliver for American families.

I am in awe of Robin's talent and intellect, her generosity and kindness, and her unshakable belief in our capacity to build a more perfect union for our children.

That belief fueled a journey that has taken her to the White House and both chambers of Congress: getting her start with the legendary Barbara Mikulski; waging appropriations fights alongside Tom Harkin, Nita Lowey, and ROSA DELAURO; and advising the President of the United States on his National Economic Council. Robin's leadership on Team Clark has left a lasting impact and legacy of service.

Robin is so beloved throughout this institution, and we will miss her dearly. On behalf of everyone here in the People's House, I offer my deepest thanks and best wishes to Robin, Ben, Oliver, and Elise.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARCEY PRIESTER, SR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend Charcey Priester, Sr., who is celebrating the 20th anniversary of service as pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Reverend Priester has provided steadfast leadership to his congregation, guiding the church with vision, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to faith and community.

Since becoming pastor in 2005, Reverend Priester has led St. Paul Baptist Church through a remarkable period of spiritual, physical, and financial growth. Under his leadership, the church's membership has increased tremendously, reflecting the strength of his ministry and the welcoming spirit of the congregation. As the church expanded, Reverend Priester introduced an additional Impact Service to ensure that even more individuals could feel welcome to visit and worship.

Reverend Priester's leadership has also been marked by a bold vision and careful stewardship. In 2007, the church purchased 46 acres of land that would become the site of a new sanctuary for the growing congregation. In April 2010, the members of St. Paul Baptist Church caravanned to their new church home—a beautiful sanctuary capable of seating 700 worshippers and a banquet hall that accommodates 300 guests. This milestone serves as a testament to Reverend Priester's leadership and the faith of the church family.

Throughout his tenure, Reverend Priester has strengthened the congregation by establishing and revitalizing numerous programs. These include a Minister-in-Training program, three-night revival workshop services, the Men's and Women's Ministries, as well as membership in the National Baptist Association.

His ministry has also focused on serving the broader Orangeburg community. St. Paul Baptist Church has implemented a grief reconciliation ministry for widows and widowers, organized a Girl Scout troop and a 9th Grade Character Academy, and reactivated the Health Ministry. Through its Missionary Society, the church provides meals and clothing to those in need, reflecting a deep commitment to compassion and outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Charcey Priester, Sr., on this important milestone. We also recognize the love and support of his wife, Minister Sarah Priester, and their children, Charcey Priester, Jr., and Majesty. May Reverend Priester continue to inspire and uplift his congregation and community for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed three of the votes in the vote series on

March 4, 2026, due to a classified call that occurred during this time period. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 83; YEA on Roll Call No. 82; and YEA on Roll Call No. 81.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on January 9, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 12.

REAFFIRMING IRAN REMAINS THE LARGEST STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1099 is nothing more than a naked attempt to justify the war with Iran that the President has already started. I refuse to play their game and will vote NO.

Last week, President Trump took our country into an illegal war with Iran—a war that the American people do not want and the Congress did not authorize.

The President has claimed legal authority to take our country into a war with Iran by pointing to Iran as an imminent threat to the United States. The fact is that Iran does not currently possess ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States, and they are further from a nuclear weapon than they have been in years. H. Res. 1099's assertion that Iran poses a "direct and persistent threat to the U.S." directly reinforces the President's own rationale for taking the United States into this disastrous war.

This resolution also states that Iran is "harboring" al-Qaeda. I am deeply concerned that this is an attempt to justify the use of the Authorization for Use of Military Force enacted by the Congress after the 9/11 attacks to provide legal backing for the President's Iran War. That law authorized the use of military force against "those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons."

While the government of Iran has, in the past, maintained some ties to members of al-Qaeda, the administration has not presented any evidence to substantiate any current presence of the organization in Iran.

If the administration intends to make this claim to justify the ongoing military action, they must provide that evidence to the Congress and make a convincing case before I can vote to endorse the claim.

The Iranian government is no friend of the United States. Their nuclear and ballistic missile programs are deeply concerning.

That is why I have supported sanctions on Iran and the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal, which

placed real constraints on Iran's nuclear program. President Trump decided to remove all constraints on Iran's nuclear program by withdrawing from that agreement, and laid the groundwork for the illegal war he initiated last week.

The best way to ensure that no more San Antonians in uniform are put in harm's way is to end this war and negotiate an agreement with Iran these concerns rather than pursue a regime change war that will only make us less safe.

If this resolution had included a clear statement that a war with Iran would require explicit congressional authorization—as required by the Constitution—and if the administration had made a clear case to the Congress substantiating the statements in the resolution, I would have considered voting for it.

I oppose the President's decision to join Israel in launching an illegal and disastrous war against Iran. The Republicans are playing partisan games with matters of war and peace, and I refuse to participate, which is why I will be voting NO on H. Res. 1099.

REAFFIRMING IRAN REMAINS THE LARGEST STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1099. While I unambiguously condemn the brutal, repressive Iranian regime, I will vote against this resolution because I fear it will be used as a pretext to support Trump's illegal war of choice.

I oppose Trump's illegal war in Iran, which is killing U.S. servicemembers, destabilizing the Middle East, wasting billions of taxpayer dollars, and raising the price of gas, all while Americans are losing their healthcare. I remain clear-eyed about the nature of the Iranian government and condemn its malign activities across the region and its brutal domestic repression, including its recent slaughter of thousands of protesters. However, the appalling behavior of governments abroad cannot give Trump the unilateral power to start forever wars across the globe.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALL TOWNSHIP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2026, the citizens of Wall, New Jersey will officially recognize the 175th anniversary of the founding of their Township, a historic and vibrant municipality located in the 4th Congressional District of New Jersey.

From its critical contributions in support of the American patriots during the Revolutionary War, to the important technological innovations discovered there during the 20th century, to the expansive selection of primary and specialty medical care providers offered there